Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

5   ## Listing of Claims: .

1   1.   (previously presented): A system for negotiating multi-path
2   connections between a plurality of intermediary devices in a networked
3   computing environment, comprising:
4   a client-side network protocol stack defined on an intermediary device
5   · available from a plurality of intermediary devices on a primary communications
6   · channel and establishing a client-side connection between a requesting client and
7   the intermediary device in accordance with a connection-oriented network
8   protocol;
9   a server-side network protocol stack establishing a server-side connection
10   between the intermediary device and a requested server on a primary
11   communications channel in accordance with the connection-oriented network
12   protocol;
13   a synchronization module determining differences in connection
14   parameters defined for the client-side connection and the server-side connection
15   and communicating the connection parameter differences to at least one other
16   such intermediary device over an out-of-band communications channel.

1   2.   (original): A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:
2   the synchronization module communicating a service request initially
3   received from the requesting client to the at least one other such intermediary
4   device while establishing the client-side connection over the out-of-band
5   communications channel.

1   3.   (original): A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

2   the synchronization module deferring communicating the connection

3   parameter differences for transitory connections.

1   4.   (original): A system according to Claim 1, wherein the out-of-band

2   communications channel comprises at least one of a broadcast, multicast, or

3   point-to-point channel.

1   5.   (original): A system according to Claim 1, wherein the connection-

2   oriented network protocol comprises the Transmission Control Protocol (TCP).

1   6.   (original): A system according to Claim 1, wherein the

2   intermediary device comprises at least one of a firewall and a boundary controller.

1   7.   (previously presented): A method for negotiating multi-path

2   connections between a plurality of intermediary devices in a networked

3   computing environment, comprising:

4   establishing a client-side connection between a requesting client and an

5   intermediary device available from a plurality of intermediary devices on a

6   primary communications channel in accordance with a connection-oriented

7   network protocol;

8   establishing a server-side connection between the intermediary device and

9   a requested server on a primary communications channel in accordance with the

10   connection-oriented network protocol;

11   determining differences in connection parameters defined for the client-

12   side connection and the server-side connection; and

13   communicating the connection parameter differences to at least one other

14   such intermediary device over an out-of-band communications channel.

1   8.   (original): A method according to Claim 7, further comprising:

2   communicating a service request initially received from the requesting

3   client to the at least one other such intermediary device while establishing the

4   client-side connection over the out-of-band communications channel.

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1   9.   (original): A method according to Claim 7, further comprising:

2   deferring communicating the connection parameter differences for

3   transitory connections.

1   10.   (original): A method according to Claim 7, wherein the out-of-

2   band communications channel comprises at least one of a broadcast, multicast, or

3   point-to-point channel.

1   11.   (original): A method according to Claim 7, wherein the

2   connection-oriented network protocol comprises the Transmission Control

3   Protocol (TCP).

1   12.   (original): A computer-readable storage medium holding code for

2   performing the method of Claim 7.

1   Claims 13-20 (canceled).